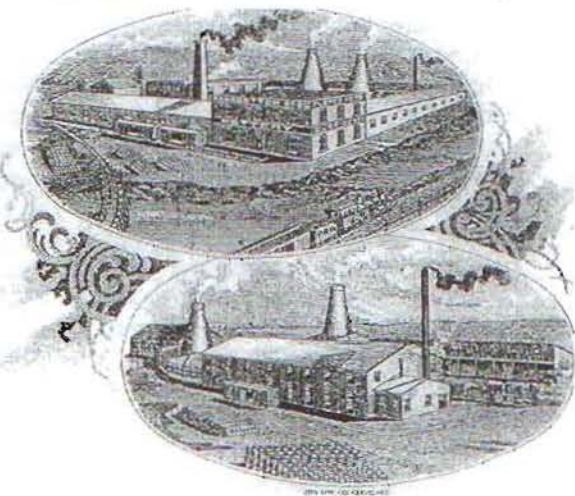
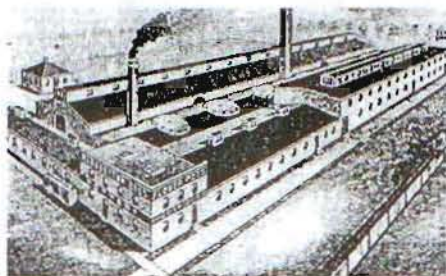


# ROSEVILLE LEGEND

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## Early Views of the Ransbottom Brothers Pottery



By James L. Murphy

A recently acquired piece of **Ransbottom Bros.** letterhead, dated Roseville, Ohio, Oct. 26, 1904, provides a very early view of the Ransbottom plant and what is believed to be the **Buckeye Pottery** stoneware plant at nearby Saltillo, about three miles west of Roseville. The Saltillo plant served as an adjunct to Ransbottom Brothers during the early years and in 1906 employed 35 men, producing two carloads of ware a week.

At this time the main Roseville plant was producing two carloads a day, with a capacity of 6,000 gallons per car. The product, as the letterhead indicates, consisted of "flower pots, cuspidors, jardinières, & all kinds of stoneware." This is also indicated by a painted sign on the front of the building.

First mention of a pottery in Saltillo, which was also known as Buckeye Village or Buckeye Cottage, is in 1870, when **F.M. and William Bradshaw** are listed as potters. The 1880 federal manufacturers' schedule lists **William A. Bradshaw** making "coarse ware," employing six men. He is still listed in an 1890/91 directory. By 1894 the **Buckeye Cottage**

Photo left, Ransbottom Bros. letterhead dated October 26, 1904. Photo right, close up views of the Ransbottom Bros. and the Buckeye Pottery stoneware plants. Photo middle, a view of the Ransbottom Bros. Pottery as it appeared in the 1906 Roseville booklet. (Photos courtesy of James L. Murphy.)

**Stoneware Co.** in Saltillo was employing 12 men and in 1896, 14 men.

The earliest dated view of the Roseville plant previously known occurs in the 1906 *Roseville* booklet, and it includes "an immense ware room and packing room 50 by 200 feet," which had just been completed, so is not shown in the 1904 letterhead view. Other differences include the two bottle kilns shown in the 1904 view. These appear to have been replaced by circular beehive kilns by 1906. Close comparison between the 1904 and 1906 views show many other differences as well. Although some of these features may be due to artistic license, for the most part they are thought to have been real.

The letter itself informs **H.C. Wysor** of Dublin, Virginia, of Ransbottom's prices for their red burned flower pots, ranging from 3 to 16 inches in diameter and in price from 90 cents to \$18.50 per hundred and with 25% off if saucers are not included. It is not published, whether the letter resulted in an order or not.